

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1, 2 and 15 are amended. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled, without prejudice. New claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 1, 2 and 5-22 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3, which depends directly from independent claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 3, and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4, which depends directly from independent claim 2, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 4, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 depend from claim 2. Thus, claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 15, which is independent, is also amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 4. Claims 16-20 depend from claim 15. Thus, claims 15-20 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Robertson (US 2003/0113130). Claims 9-14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Robertson in view of Mori (US 2001/0043359). In view of the amendment of these claims into condition for allowance, as discussed above, these grounds for rejection are now moot.

New Claims

New independent claims 21 and 22 are added to better define the invention and find support in applicant's specification at paragraph 0048. Claims 21 and 22

are based on claims 1 and 2, respectively, and further recite a one-up printing process for the last sheet of an odd number of sheets to be printed. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and further distinguishes the present invention in addition to the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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